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Left: A group of freshmen take time out of socializing to smile for the camera! Right: Freshmen Joel Rice and Elizabeth Hall pose after dinner.

Freshmen Banquet: Food, Fellowship, Reflection

By Melissa Piskula, Staff Writer

The Freshman Banquet is an annual celebration that gives freshmen the chance to see how much has changed since orientation week, an event that been hosted by SJC for about ten years. Dean of Freshman, Heidi Rahe, explained, "It is a time for residential and commuter freshmen and residential nursing students to remember orientation and all that has happened in the last seven weeks. Long, long ago, there was an outside speaker, but it has evolved into just a meal and a toast to the new year."

The Freshmen Banquet is planned by a committee of Freshmen Leaders. This year's Banquet committee members were: Jessica Harris, Angela Shaver, Kara Marxer, Chris Bush, and Katie Grgic. It is up to the committee to determine a theme, plan the menu and decorations, and coordinate the different parts of the evening. "The theme of this year's banquet was "Puma Pride," which we tried to show

using the school colors and the posters we designed in the décor. The event was a fun, relaxing time to get all dolled up and celebrate," Shaver said. "It is very seldom that we dress up on campus; we often usually see

each other in our pajamas and hoodies. This was a chance to put on our Sunday best and share memories with those who have been by our side since the first weekend on campus."

While the ceremony took place, it was visible how much everyone had changed from that first week. Then hardly anyone knew one another; now everyone is more comfortable in their surroundings and with those who have been through the journey

with them. Marxer commented, "The Freshman Banquet allows the whole class to get together and realize how much has changed in a very short time. Looking back at the pictures of orientation weekend during the slide show



Freshmen stop after dinner to smile!

always makes me extremely aware of the changes freshmen go through in those first few weeks of college." She continued, "As a freshman leader, I can see the changes in my freshman each week, but often they are unaware of how much they are changing."

"I thought it was a good way to bring the class of 2009 together before we see our whole class at graduation, because time will go by very fast," said

freshman Helene Stefanik. "I thought the banquet was very nicely set up, and I liked how we got to sit with our freshman seminar groups." Fellow freshman Kaylee Hofmeister said, "I'm glad that we got pictures from the orientation and I am glad that we got to take pictures all dressed up." Greg Mooneyhan, also a freshman, commented, "Everybody seemed to be in a good mood. I really don't talk to the students in my freshman seminar group on a regular basis, but I think that I got to know them better and talked to them more at the banquet. It helped me get to know them and feel comfortable around them."

Harris, also senior class president, acknowledged, "The freshman banquet will be something that this class will look back on and smile when they get to be all grown up."

NCATE Visit Determines Accreditation Renewal for TEP

By Katie Grgic, Co-Editor in Chief

On October 22-26, a committee from the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) will be visiting SJC to evaluate the Education Department on the curriculum of their teacher education program (TEP), their accountability measures, and their success in assessing the students they graduate out of the teacher education program. This visit is extremely important, as the department needs to keep it accreditation for its graduates to receive their teaching licenses. Seven people, from administrators to the Commissioner of Education of California, will spend five days reviewing student work, departmental accountability, and the overall success of the teacher education program at SJC. At the end of the five days the department will receive a report indicating the strengths of the department, improvements to be made, and notification of whether or not their accreditation has been renewed.

The department's accreditation is up for renewal every five years, and this will be the first NCATE visit for the current members of the Education department. Dr. Jennifer Barce, chair of the Education department, enumerated some of the challenges the department has faced in preparation of this visit. "In addition to this being the first visit for our staff, the standards that NCATE maintains have changed," she said. "Our biggest challenge has been quantifying the personal connection that students have with faculty and fellow students in the department, which we feel is one of our greatest strengths." The department began working to meet the new NCATE standards with the implementation of a new program to address the curriculum standards that NCATE mandates. However, most of the intense preparation for the visit began during the second part of last year. "We developed a conceptual framework-"Heart,

Mind, Spirit: Educating the Whole Person"- that we felt tied into the mission statement of the college and captured a major strength of our department. We also began collecting student samples of work done in class, and we put together a five year portfolio to represent the improvements we had made during that time, like the increase in our Praxis series pass rate from 72% to 92%."

Despite the time-consuming work necessary to prepare for visits like these, the benefit to education, the department, and the students in the department makes the process worth it. NCATE's goal is to work to ensure "high quality teacher preparation," as "every student deserves a caring, competent, and highly qualified teacher" (www.ncate.org). Through this review process and the evaluation and reflection necessary in preparing for an NCATE visit, the department can see what it does well and what needs

improvement not only to develop the best teacher education program it can, but also so the department can graduate the most-prepared and most qualified students they can to help ensure that children in schools across the country can have an excellent teacher in their classroom. The students currently in the department also stand to benefit from experiencing the accreditation process. "The students get to see that we as professionals are constantly reviewing and reflecting on our work, which provides them with a model of good professional practice," Barce said. "They also get the opportunity to share their input, as the committee will interview some classes, they submitted samples of their work, and they benefit by being part of the assessment system overall."

The Education department has worked long and hard to prepare for their accreditation renewal and are confident about the results of their NCATE visit.

Opinions

Opinions--you have them we need them. This week there is a Frenchman almost randomly below the call-out box. Who knows what will happen next issue. So, yes we *need* your opinions. There must be more than two students who would like to voice their concerns in the "Puma Perspectives." Then again, maybe not. If you would like to voice your opinion, send a letter to the editor or become an *Observer* contributor. Contact the editorial board via our Saint Joe's email account.

observer-editors@saintjoe.edu



Writing From the Right,
Courtesy of George White:
The Conservative Perspec-
tive on Social Security

By George White, *Opinion Staff Writer*

Social Security has grown in the past seventy years from the "retirement insurance" program that it was designed to be into many seniors' only source of income. When this shift is coupled with the rising number of retirees, the entire system breaks apart. In an attempt to fix this, the President has suggested that *some* of the Social Security program be privatized.

Note that I said *some*, and not all. Currently, Social Security takes 12.4% of a worker's wages up to \$90,000 (this number is variable and based upon growth in wages, and any wages earned past \$90,000 are not taxed for Social Security). This means that a person making \$90,000 or more a year would pay \$11,160 into Social Security every year. President Bush's plan calls for 4% of a worker's wages (up to a total of \$1,000 a year in 2009 and increasing by \$100 a year and adjusted for wage increases) to be eligible for private accounts. This privatization would not be mandatory to anyone, so people unsure of the stock market would be fully able to keep the money in the Social Security system itself. Even if a worker does put their money in the stock market which then "crashes" the worker will still have at least 2/3 of the normal Social Security revenue.

As you can see above, the wealthy would only benefit slightly from the proposed changes to Social Security.

Anyone making \$25,000 or more a year would be able to invest the full \$1,000 dollars on their first year in the program. This low cap would prevent the wealthy from taking advantage of the program.

Another of the compelling (at least in my opinion) reasons for the privatization of Social Security is that the money would be yours free and clear. In the current system, the government taxes your earnings, and if you die your family never sees that revenue returned. I for one would like to be able to decide what happens to my money after I earn it. Under President Bush's plan, the money in your privatized accounts would be under your name, and it is considered part of your estate when/if you die. This means that your family will be able to benefit from some of the money you made over your lifetime that was taken as taxes.

The above brings me to another topic entirely – the estate tax. I have very little to say about it, but I will sum up my opinions of it with one question. The money in your estate has already been taxed by the government once when you earned it, so why should they get to tax it again when you die?

Anyone wanting to learn more about President Bush's plan can go to <http://www.whitehouse.gov/infocus/social-security/200501/strengthening-socialsecurity.html>.

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Puma Perspective: Vive le...America

By Jean Monfort, *Outside Contributor*

When asked to write an opinion piece on France, my first response was "And how many hundred counter-articles are you going to print?" France and the United States have always had a bit of a love-hate relationship (the infamous "freedom fries" incident comes to mind), but history reveals a mutual appreciation not easily set aside. France and the United States have aided each other in the past. The French aided the revolutionaries during the American Revolution (the Marquis de Lafayette even held a high rank in the American military). We, in turn, honored

our alliance and aided France in World War II.

There is one symbol that represents the oft times grudging respect France and the United States share: the Statue of Liberty. The French built the Statue of Liberty in honor of the democratic spirit of the United States, and donated the statue in 1886, a decade after the US centennial. Now the United States has made Lady Liberty one of the greatest symbols of freedom in the world. That, to me, suggests that we can overcome our current "anti-Frog" mentality.

The real difference lies in culture. The French are a people

of philosophy, of discourse and argument. They do not look for animosity in a difference of opinion. We Americans like action; we rush to complete things, to do things. We see the French as cowardly, they see us as brash. They ridicule us for processed food, we ridicule them for poor hygiene (which they counter by calling us hypochondriacs). The cycle continues on and on, but there is a balance which must be maintained; the two different mindsets are necessary. France serves as a dissident voice, the Devil's advocate, looking at past and future to determine

action. America serves as the laborer, the one who does, for good or ill, the action.

Ultimately, I know we will continue teasing the French for eating snails and trilling their r's in the backs of their throats, and they will tease us for confusing soccer, football and rugby, and our use of irregular verbs. There is such a difference of culture that true, open friendship will be difficult. I do believe, however, that history will prove that the relationship between the French and Americans is made of tougher stuff than we currently give it credit for.

No "Senior Weekend" For Class of 2007

By Kara Marxer, Staff Writer

Starting in 2007, graduation will become a one day event with both the baccalaureate mass and commencement held the same day. In past years, baccalaureate was held on Saturday and commencement held on Sunday. Last semester, the faculty voted to make the change after a recommendation from the Academic Cabinet to move commencement from Mother's Day, which graduation has fallen on since 2002.

During their deliberations, the faculty did not seek student input or approval for such a decision, much to the dismay of the Student Association. After discovering their decision, SA worked fast to appeal the decision to the faculty through the Student Life Committee.

SA President Heather Mikus, Vice President Amanda Bartz, Secretary Shelly Osborn, and Treasurer Rachel Jarrard sponsored a resolution to change graduation back to a two day event. The resolution went back

to the faculty for approval, but was narrowly defeated.

"We put a ton of student support behind this and students were encouraged to lobby their professors in order to gain support in the faculty assembly meeting. The junior class and anyone else interested were invited to participate in a "picket

campus, as well as nullifying "Senior Weekend," and taking away the opportunity for students to honor their mothers during the Mother's Day graduation time. While the date for the commencement of the class of 2007 has been set in stone, the times for the events and move-out have not yet been finalized.

Currently, the Student Association is working with the administration to give students more time to move out. They are also working to change graduation back to a two-day event for the class of 2008. Mikus said, "We are also

" We are currently working on a proposal for the 2008 graduation date so this does not happen to students again."

-- Heather Mikus

line" outside of the meeting in order to talk with faculty and let them know how important this issue was to them," stated Mikus.

Possible problems with the new one-day graduation schedule include move-out time and dates, especially for students who live farther than sixty miles from

now working on a proposal for the 2008 graduation date so this does not happen to students again. The academic cabinet said that they will probably be voting on the next academic calendar in the near future so we will have student opinion and support ready before the vote is taken."

Career Development Center Introduces New Mentoring Database

By Katie Grgic, Co-Head Editor and Chief

The Career Development Center, in conjunction with the Center for Indiana Partnerships, recently launched their new website, www.saintjoe.edu/careers, designed to help students interface with important information and resources that will facilitate their job search. A key element added to increase student connections and preparation for the field is the Career Mentor Network. Through this network, students have access to alumni and business professionals who wish to aid students in learning more about their chosen field of interest.

Leslie Hielema, Director of the Center for Indiana Partnerships, sent out a letter to alumni, community leaders, and various businesses and organizations asking them if they would be willing to serve as mentors for SJC students. To date, over seventy alumni have registered as part of the mentoring network. Hielema cannot emphasize enough the help mentors provide students. "Mentors

serve as role models who can provide the student with guidance and advice regarding academics or a specific profession, help with networking by providing contacts, and offer insight to the working world in their field," she said.

To search the mentor network, students must make an appointment with the Career Center so they can have an introduction to the way mentoring works and basic guidelines that should be followed to facilitate the effectiveness and quality of the mentoring experience. Once students have completed this requirement, they are given a password and login information and can then begin to search for a mentor in their field.

"It is up to the student to find and contact a mentor, and then the two of them will work to establish a relationship," Hielema said. The mentor and mentee must also establish the conditions of their mentoring sessions. "The two will also need to assign

specifics. They need to establish how long the mentoring period will last; typically, it lasts at least a semester. They will also decide how often they talk and the form of communication used." She continued, "There are two forms of mentoring-face-to-face and long distance. Most of our students will have a long-distance mentor, so the contact will be done via email and telephone." As a result, students will need to plan ahead and take time to maintain a connection with their mentor.

The Career Center and the Center for Indiana Partnerships will be continuing to expand the number of mentors available to students. An official launch of the website will occur soon, but it is currently operational and students can access the online tools. For more information about the website or to set up an appointment to begin the process of finding a mentor, contact the Career Development Center at x6116.



The campus radio station, 90.5 Puma Rock, started a Halloween contest this past Monday to scare up some new listeners. The station will play a Halloween themed song, like Michael Jackson's "Thriller" or the classic "Ghostbusters" by Ray Parker, Jr. and then give away bags of candy to the first listener who calls in to the station. Every day one bag of candy will be given away until Halloween.

PWT Hosts Prayer Vigil for Victims of Domestic Violence

By Kara Marxer, Staff Writer

Every nine seconds, a woman is abused in the United States. One-third of all women have been in an abusive relationship at some time during their lives. Twenty percent of high school teenagers report physical or sexual abuse from a dating partner, and one in three teens know someone who has been punched, hit, slapped, choked, or otherwise physically assaulted by their boyfriend or girlfriend. (courtesy of National Domestic Violence Hotline)

These frightening statistics are at the center of the prayer vigil that Puma Women Today held the night of October 11. In honor of Domestic Violence Awareness month, Puma Women Today teamed up with the North Central Indiana Rural Crisis Center to sponsor a prayer vigil in honor of women and children who have been abused by a spouse or partner. Puma Women Today's sponsor, Ary Nelson, believes the prayer vigil will make a difference to those involved in abusive relationships. "So often, we think of abuse as an 'adult problem,' but it's not. More and more teenagers are being abused by their boyfriends or girlfriends and no one even realizes it," Nelson said. "We're trying to raise awareness to stop the problem before it gets worse."

Kim Denton, director of the Crisis Center, also believes the real problems start before adulthood. "It seems as though young girls today are concerned about having a relationship so that they can claim an identity among peers," Denton said. "They aren't strong enough to understand the long term effects of a bad relationship, but as parents we are, and it is our job to

protect them. I ask you, are we doing that?"

The vigil was designed to raise awareness about both abusive behaviors and physical battery. Abuse is a pattern of coercive control that one person exercises over another. Battering is a behavior that physically harms, arouses fear, and prevents a partner from doing what they wish or forces them to behave in ways they do not want. "I hope that the vigil will give battered and abused women the strength to get out of their abusive relationships and find healing with God. The biggest problem by far is the young people in abusive relationships. We need to pray that they will have the strength to get out of a bad situation," Nelson said.

According to the National Domestic Violence Hotline, "abusive relationships have good times and bad times. Part of what makes dating violence so confusing and painful is that there is love mixed with the abuse, which makes abuse so hard to uncover. Hotline executive director Sheryl Cates states, "The truth is, domestic violence is rampant and diverse, and it's still something no one wants to talk about. The social stigma presents an enormous obstacle to accounting for whether things are improving or getting worse for victims of this type of violence." Until domestic violence stops, groups like Puma Women Today will continue to raise awareness and promote the end of the abuse. For more information on other prayer vigils held by the Puma Women Today or other Campus Ministry activities, contact Ary Nelson in the Campus Ministry Office at aryn@saintjoe.edu or x6352.

On behalf of The Observer staff, we would like to wish you all a relaxing Fall Break!

See you Monday, October 17th!

Teresa's Box of Indie Goodies

Teresa Moreno



Fiona Apple holds an apple. Brilliant. (Photo courtesy of www.fiona-apple.com)

Fiona Apple Strikes Back

Fiona Apple is a name that the music scene has not heard in a long time. Six years after she released *When the Pawn...*, Apple finally put out another official album on October 4th. Before Sony/CleanSlate records officially released *Extraordinary Machine*, Fiona Apple fans could only obtain her work in the form of bootlegged demo recordings that were floating around in cyber space.

The battle of Apple against her record company lasted for a few years. Fans feared that the situation would turn into what the music world refers to as a *Yankee Hotel Foxtrot* situation. In 2001, Wilco attempted to release their album, *Yankee Hotel Foxtrot*. To their dismay, the record company disliked their music because it lacked a radio friendly song. The company feared that the album would not make enough money. Wilco refused to change their album, so Reprise records ended their contract and told them to take their album elsewhere. Apple's situation was very similar to Wilco's. She held her ground and refused to let the record label dictate her art. But instead of taking her album elsewhere, she merely stopped working on it, leaving it to never to be released.

As the years progressed, fans began to assume that it was Sony/CleanSlate preventing Apple's album from being released. They set up protests and sent fake apples to the executives at the company. After hearing about this, Apple realized that she had fans supporting her music. Moved by the protests, she called the record company, and they agreed to let her do her album on her own terms. A few months

later she entered the recording studio and gave birth to the version of *Extraordinary Machine* that we can all now hold in our hands.

Extraordinary Machine is a little different than her previous two LPs. This particular album has many more songs that involve many more instruments than her usual albums. Traditionally, her songs were simpler because there was not much ornamentation with instruments other than the piano. On this album, Apple plays around with the sound but still keeps her piano as the backbone of the album. In fact, the only song on the album that exclusively involves the artist on the piano is "Parting Gift." This song harkens back to the songs she created on her debut album, *Tidal*. The song is simple, yet beautiful. It shows off her lyrical ability to make any situation involving a man seem as though it is shrouded in unbearable pain.

Apple has a number of high quality songs on her album. The song "Tymps (The Sick in the Head Song)" has a very interesting back beat that uses synthesizers. The tune morphs into her classic piano styling by the middle of the song and then reverts back to the earlier beat. In the title track, Apple experiments with her vocal range and hits notes that her fans did not believe she could achieve.

Overall, the album proves even in her six year absence, Apple has not lost her flair for words or creating music. She will soon be on the road for a North American tour. For more information on her tour or her new album, please visit www.fiona-apple.com.

The musical Scorecard is used to give a numerical value to the quality of an album. A score of 10 is amazing, but a score of 1 would cause most listeners to cry out in pain. Five is an average score. The review does not express the opinion of *The Observer*.

Musical Scorecard:

Originality: 7.5

Lyrics: 7.5

Lasting Appeal: 7

Album Cover: 6

Total: 7/10

Family Guy DVD Spotlights Stewie, Defies Censors

By Katherine Stembel, Staff Writer

Tuesday, September 27, 2005.

What does this date represent? A worldwide peace agreement? The discovery of a cure for cancer? The second coming of Jesus Christ?

No! The DVD release of *Family Guy Presents Stewie Griffin: The Untold Story*!

But then again, I'm slightly biased.

Loyal *Family Guy* fans have been anxiously awaiting this DVD release ever since new episodes of the television show finally made it to cable roughly three years after it was cancelled by the evil, Satanic forces, otherwise known as FOX network executives.

Because of *Family Guy's* faithful supporters, the success of DVD Seasons One, Two, and Three – it was the fourth-best-selling television series of all time – and Cartoon Network's Adult Swim's record-breaking ratings, FOX decided to bring back the series in May 2005.

And now the band of New Englanders, including Peter Griffin (voice of Seth MacFarlane), Lois (voice of Alex Borstein), Meg (voice of Mila



Stewie Griffin stares at you with his huge, cartoonish eyes. Your move. (Photo courtesy of www.amazon.com)

Kunis), Chris (voice of Seth Green), Stewie (voice of MacFarlane), and of course their dog Brian (voice of MacFarlane), has returned for an eighty-eight minute film that embodies all that *Family Guy* represents: cheeky humor, rebellious characters, and, of course, fart jokes.

The world-domination driven baby Stewie sets out on an expedition to locate his "real" father, a man who looks exactly like him, whom Stewie sees on

November.

Yes, Tuesday, September 27, 2005 was a gloriously unrivaled day and I now believe I will be able to die happy. Seth MacFarlane, the driving genius behind the two-time Emmy nominated *Family Guy*, which debuted in 1999, reveals *Stewie Griffin: The Untold Story* and soothes *Family Guy* fans with these magical words: "Never-Before-Seen Uncensored Pee-In-Your-Pants Fun!"

American Dad Fails the Family, Offends the Neighbors

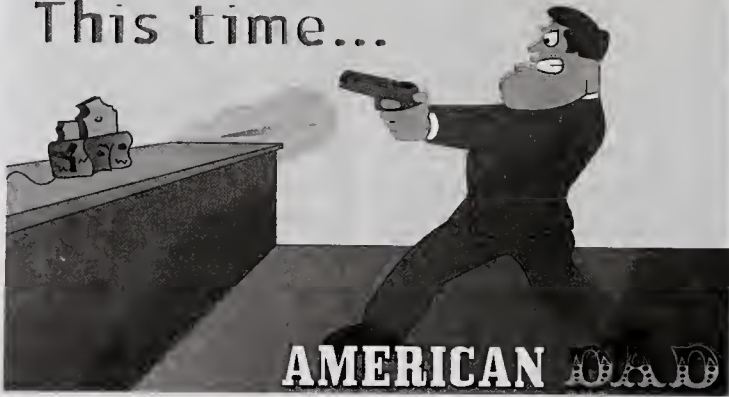
By BJ Houlding, Staff Writer

Submitted for your perusal: one psychotic dad, his surprisingly attractive wife, their son and daughter, a talking pet infatuated with the mother, and a highly effeminate character of questionable anatomy. A family unit of six, destined for moments of comedic wackiness. What show features this unstable collection of kin? Not *Family Guy* as it may outwardly appear, but one *American Dad*. Is *American Dad* a thinly camouflaged *Family Guy* clone? You be the judge.

Sorry to get all *Twilight Zone* on you guys, but the similarities between *American Dad* and *Family Guy* truly are eerie. Both are Seth MacFarlane projects, and it seems that he really didn't branch out much with his second effort. Now don't get me wrong, a well-done *Family Guy* clone wouldn't be bad; *Family Guy* is the five-Smurf gold standard when it comes to animated comedy. It just seems that *American Dad* tries to be *Family Guy*, and can't do it as well.

Start with the father, Stan Smith. Where Peter Griffin's

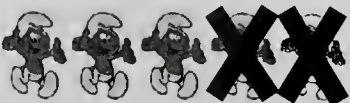
This time it was toast. This time...



Stan slays toast. You should see him fight bacon. (Photo courtesy of http://www.american-dad.com/newsite/images/toast_1024x768.jpg)

stupidity invariably leads to hilarity, Stan's stubborn arrogance sometimes leaves you feeling uncomfortable and not amused. Klaus, a German goldfish, is the apparent equivalent to Brian. His dialogue is often stilted and sight gags for a character literally in a fishbowl can only go so far. The last of the weak characters is Roger, an alien rescued from Area 51. His grumpy effeminate attitude is reminiscent of Stewie, but he fails to add much to the majority of situations, becoming a whiny secondary character.

Overall, *American Dad* is good, but this reviewer expected much more from the show. The weak characters, in conjunction with the lack of cut scenes that are the staple of MacFarlane's previous efforts, make *American Dad* nothing more than a ho-hum experience. The show has its moments, but they're only good enough to earn *American Dad* three Smurfs out of five.



Christopher Columbus: Famous Explorer or the Antichrist?

By Joe Larson, *Co-Editor in Chief*

"In 1492, Columbus sailed the ocean blue." With this simple rhyme, Christopher Columbus embarked on his prestigious career of unmitigated evil. Less than a year after setting sail from Spain, North America fell under the spell of his charismatic personality and massive undead armies. Yet, somehow amidst the burning and pillaging, the true nature of Columbus was forgotten, and rather than being stricken from the annals of human history, the world's first super villain was commemorated with a holiday instead. This archaic tradition is still followed by a few backwards institutions, such as Purdue and the federal government, but for the most part the public has accepted the fact that Columbus Day should be a time to disparage the greatest war criminal in all of history. Unfortunately, there are still a few misguided souls that cling to the traditions of the past. Citing trivial points like "factual evidence" and "common sense," these archconservatives argue that Columbus is just being turned into a scapegoat by a new wave of historical revisionism and political correctness. Thanks to modern science and the a highly accurate tarot card reading, however, it can be conclusively proven that Columbus is in fact the Antichrist.

It was not easy to rediscover the truth about Columbus. History has many villains.

Children have grown up fearing names like Attila the Hun, Vlad the Impaler, and Ringo Starr, but some evil-doers have come to light much more recently thanks to the work of modern historians. Rather than focusing on practical problems like defending against zombie attack or catching the Hamburglar, these scholars spend their time ruining the reputations of great men from the past lest mankind have someone left to believe in. After exhaustive research, historians have discovered that virtually every famous person from the past was gay and Al Gore won the 2000 election. More importantly, they learned that George Washington never chopped down a cherry tree, but he did bury a hatchet in Benjamin Franklin's face. After making discoveries like these, there is no reason not to trust these historians about Columbus.

Let's start with the basics. According to contemporary accounts, Columbus was somewhere between five and 42 feet tall. He hoped to find a faster route to India so he could satisfy his insatiable hunger for human brains, a commodity that was oddly hard to find on the open market. Isabella and Ferdinand agreed to finance Columbus's expedition under the conditions that he couldn't sue them when he fell off the edge of the earth and that he had to



The Indians did not enjoy smallpox, but everyone loves a slinky. (Photo courtesy of <http://www.engr.colostate.edu/~dga/me324/Labs/Lab%204/images/slinky.jpg>)

follow their three-part agenda: 1) accidentally discover a new continent 2) commit genocide on said continent 3) bring back cookies.

The explorer commissioned three ships for the expedition: the *Niña*, the *Pinta*, and the *Rape and Pillage Express* – his beloved flagship – and set sail almost immediately. Thanks to his poor navigational skills and distrust of his GPS system, Columbus got lost and ended up in the Bahamas, which were something of a tourist trap even in the 1400s. He stayed there until he blew all his money on overpriced souvenirs and pot, at which point he was forced to return to Spain and make up a story about "discovering" the New World. He called the people who lived there "Indians," mostly because of their legendary love for Indiana Jones.

During his stay in the Bahamas, Columbus didn't give

the natives smallpox; he traded it to them for six beads and a glow-in-the-dark slinky. For an additional three beads, the Indians could have upgraded to large pox and a biggie drink, but the indigenous people had a poor sense of cost-benefit analysis. To make matters worse, medical technology at the time was not exactly advanced. Insanity was thought to be the result of bad humors and toe fungus killed approximately a billion

Europeans every four hours. There was no vaccine for smallpox when Columbus landed. He probably had no idea that he was even carrying the germs for the disease. But rest assured, if he would have had the vaccine, he wouldn't have given it to the Indians because he was a jerk.

The explorer also found other ways to offend his contemporaries. There were no women on the voyage because Columbus knew there was not enough time in the day to both sail the ocean blue and beat his wife. Although the wind-powered sails he used were considered to be environmentally friendly at the time, Columbus installed a massive smoke-spewing furnace on his flag ship that was powered entirely by burning puppies. The furnace provided no warmth or propulsion for the ship, but it did supply the sailors with endless hours of entertainment. Finally,

Columbus had the bad habit of swearing too much and using his radioactive heat vision to vaporize entire native populations. This proved detrimental to the spread of Christianity in the New World until someone pointed out that Jesus often used his ultra powerful death rays as a means of gentle persuasion for reluctant converts.

In America, the legacy of Christopher Columbus is mixed at best. A few cities are named after the explorer, the most notable of which are Columbus, Ohio, and Antichrist, Vermont. Otherwise, the sailor is largely forgotten in America today. Rather than being exceptional, Columbus is just another example of the way all famous people will eventually be vilified by historians. Someday, Louis Pasteur will probably be maligned for his genocidal campaign against the native rabies population, and the bones of Thomas Edison will be put on trial for the heresy of creating the light bulb. The modern world may be ungrateful to Columbus, but he undisputedly made one positive contribution to society today: a holiday selfishly created in his honor. Classes should definitely be canceled for Columbus Day. If we can't have the day off in honor of his positive contributions to mankind, we should at least have the day off in memory of his unprecedented evil.

The Juggler That Tried to Slash Me

By Amie White, *Staff Writer*

Have you ever been in a situation where your life flashed before your eyes? Well I have, and if you went to the Chainsaw Juggler on Saturday October 1st you know why. Let me tell the story from the very beginning.

It all started when I arrived with some of my friends. I sat in the front row so that everyone was not in the very back. Mad Chad the Chainsaw Juggler rode onto the stage on a skateboard while videotaping the audience.

He juggled multiple items during the show: three balls; breast implants; an egg, a pair of panties and a 10lb steel ball; his skateboard, a cell phone, and pager; five plastic bats; and three stun guns.

This is the part where my life flashed before my eyes. He asked for two male volunteers and a female volunteer. My friends chanted my name and pointed at me. Needless to say I was his lucky female volunteer. He got out a unicycle and had the two men hold it. They were going to help him get onto it in a few minutes. After mounting the unicycle, he planned to juggle



Mad Chad defies gravity, looks creepy. He is a man of many talents. (Photo courtesy of <http://www.madchadtaylor.com/>)

But first, he wanted to prove how sharp the knives were. He had me stick a carrot in my mouth and said he was going to take the knife and chop the carrot in half. To do this, he had to swing the knife directly in front of my face. I was a good sport even though the thought scared the life out of me. After testing the first knife, and reducing the carrot to a stub a few inches long, he looked like he was going to cut the much-shorter carrot stub again. I closed my eyes and prayed that I would not die. Instead of grabbing the other

knife, he grabbed a chainsaw and revved it in my ear. This scared me so much that I practically jumped out of my skin. Thankfully, he was only joking. The nightmare was over and I lived. He then proceeded to mount the unicycle and juggle the two knives and apple perfectly.

He ended his show by juggling chainsaws. He started by just juggling one chainsaw and two rubber balls. Gradually he replaced each ball with a chainsaw, which finally left him juggling three chainsaws at once. After he had impressed the crowd with this feat, he attempted

a new trick that consisted of him standing on an unstable stack: a skateboard on top a hollow cylindrical tube, which rested on its side on top of a suitcase. He teetered precariously on the skateboard as he juggled a chainsaw and two juggling balls.

Overall, I would say that Mad Chad the Chainsaw Juggler was very talented and funny. I recommend that everyone go and see him if he comes to campus again.

To learn more visit <http://www.madchadtaylor.com>.

Improv Group Teaches Students Skills, Helps Share Laughs

By Julia LaBlanc, *Staff Writer*

Improvisation is an unrehearsed performance involving a musical passage or dramatic skit. Students in SJC's Improv Group excel at these unrehearsed, off-the-cuff performances. The Improv Group is sponsored by the Columbian Players. John Rahe has been the group's advisor since last semester and wanted to see if there were enough students interested to keep the group going. Some of the students who are currently in the group also took an improvisation class and wanted to improve their acting skills. Improv meets an average of three times a week. Each meeting draws between twelve and fourteen people. The students gather in the Scene Shop, which is located in the Science Building on the second floor. They meet 5-6 p.m. on Thursday afternoons.

Improv starts off at a slower pace to allow newcomers a chance to learn the basics of improvisation. The early exercises are short and have few guidelines. Performers are allowed creative reign on the stage, a freedom that

results in many surprises and much laughter. The students also play games such as "energy toss," "go," and "freeze tag" to warm up and to get the feel of how Improv troupes develop and work.

According to senior computer science and communications major Kyle Purple, a member of Improv. "It's been the only thing I've been a part of [that encourages me] not to think."

Even if you are not a theatre major, you can still get involved with the group. Improv is open to anyone who would like to join. Plus, it helps those who need more practice speaking in front of audiences. Improv helps with your communication skills as well as your acting skills. Freshman political science major Jacqueline Kent stated, "I am thankful to have this outlet just to be creative and get away from the stress of the normal academic schedule."

For more information about Improv, contact professor John Rahe at johnr@saintjoe.edu.



Fall Ball Fosters Big Hopes

By Andrew Costello, Staff Writer

The women's softball team has just completed yet another successful season of fall ball. And for the second consecutive year, the team looks to carry their success into the spring season, hoping to eclipse last year's school record of 25-21. The Pumas concluded their fall season by finishing 7-7-1, which is respectable considering they faced teams such as DePaul, Ball State, and Northern Illinois.

Although the team lost key pitching in the off season, the Pumas still look to take the Great Lakes Valley Conference by storm. Their strong fall play is indicative of great things to come.

Third-base specialist Jill Kapitan feels that the team chemistry and ambition will guide the team in the right direction. "We have brought in an incredibly talented group of freshmen. This team has the best chemistry of any of the teams I have played with in my four years at this school. Although we didn't end up with as many wins as we may have liked this fall, we have only just begun taking steps towards our full potential. By spring this

team will be capable of a conference championship and much more!"

The program has recruited much young blood, as half the team is comprised of mostly freshmen who look to be the foundation for the team in future years. The team also returns about eleven players from last year, creating the propensity for a season filled with much mystery and excitement.

Junior outfielder Nicole Fetla feels very optimistic about the experience of the team and their ability to deliver in clutch situations. "I think that this is the best team that we've had in the three years that I have been here," says Fetla. "The freshmen have really stepped up and showed everyone what they are made of. With the combination of the freshman and the returning sophomores, juniors and seniors we have a solid team that is going to go far."

The Puma softball team starts their official season on Feb. 25 at Ferris State University, and their first home contest is March 18th against Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville.

Puma Profile



Full name: Joseph Talley

Started playing: I first started playing when I was five years old. You wouldn't believe it now, but my first game ever, I stood in place and cried because I was scared of being in front of the crowd of parents on the sidelines. My father, who was also my coach, was so angry that he pulled me out and made me sit for the remainder of the game.

Strengths: I feel like I have been playing fairly well, aside from the Valparaiso Exhibition Match. It took some effort for me to change from my attack-style defensive habits to a more technically sound, defense-only role player, but I feel like I'm doing fine with this role on this year's squad.

Team chemistry: We are fairly close this year, and certainly much closer than in years past. All of the guys seem to really get along, and most of the time they are always together. Even the freshmen on the team spend most of their free time hanging out with the upperclassmen in the Apartments.

Team strengths: I think we certainly have strength in our speed and athleticism. The majority of the teams that we have faced have not been able to run with us for the full ninety minutes. We also seem to have a much more positive attitude this season, which can be seen in the dramatic change in respect that our players have for others on the field this season.

Team weaknesses: We struggle with the fact that in years past, the team morale was allowed to drop, and expectations for our program have never been very high. Fortunately, as I mentioned above, this has not haunted us nearly as much this season as was expected.

Personal goals: I am first and foremost playing for the success of the team. I truly believe that we have the squad this year to win conference and this is my goal for the team. Personally, I have dreamed of playing professionally ever since I was seven years old. Thus, my goal is to play to the best of my ability in order to gain the recognition of coaches, so that I may continue to receive invitations to try-outs this coming spring for professional squads.

By Christie VanEyck, Staff Writer

Dream of Last Season Not Forgotten

By Erika Osborne, Staff Writer

The Puma baseball team may be in their off-season right now but if you watch the practices you would think that they're gearing up for regular season. Looking out on the field you will see a few new faces. "We feel that our incoming class (transfers included) is a vital group for us. We had some holes to fill in with Adam Zimmerman, Michael Stitz, Bo Gum, Sean McBride and Marc

Schroeder leaving," says coach Rick O'Dette. The team sees their experience as being a major strength to them this year. They were two games away from the National Championship last year and so this year naturally "that has been our goal since day one" O'Dette says. With that goal in mind the team has been practicing hard day in and day out, preparing for another successful season.



Puma Football Team Stays Hot

By Chase Sonen, Staff Writer

Three weeks ago some people questioned when the Pumas first win would come, now the only question is, how much are we going to win by? After a fourth straight victory, the Pumas are 4-3 on the season and show no signs of letdown. Led by one of the top passing offenses in the country (240 ypg), and an opportunistic defense (twelve forced turnovers and five defensive TDs), the Pumas are showing why they are vastly improving from a DII doormat, to a DII contender. Now thought of as one of the most improved

programs in the nation, the Pumas hope to stay hot and end the season on an eight game winning streak.

If the Pumas can finish 8-3, it will mark as one of the most successful seasons in team history, but don't be fooled; that is the last thing on their mind right now. They know that they have to take it one game at a time, and overlooking any one of them can be fatal. Regardless of if they win their next five games or not, they definitely have the tools to get the job done. So with the right tools and some hard work, anything is possible.



(Photo courtesy of <http://midbucanan.k12.mo.us/sports/football/images/football.jpg>)

Do You Want More Publicity for Your Sports Team?

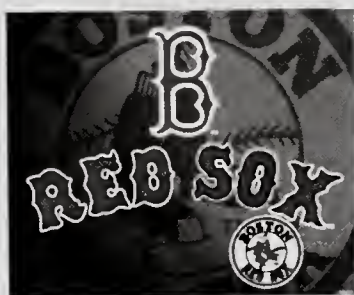
The Observer is looking for excited new writers to cover sporting events. Athletes are always welcome to express their opinions and insights about SJC athletic programs.

Email us at observer-editors@saintjoe.edu if you have something interesting to share with the rest of the college.

MLB Playoffs



“Baseball is like church. Many attend, but few understand.”
~Wes Westrum



“Echoes April Through October Nights”

By Elizabeth Kloczek, *Columnist*

Sports fans are a special breed. One needs only look to Oakland Raiders' fans for a visual. But it isn't exclusively tied to the paint on your face, the jersey or hat you sport, or the sign you wave. Being a fan is in your heart. It's a love affair, and it's often unrequited.

It doesn't matter that your team can let you down game after game, season after season, because you own that disappointment as if you had been on the field yourself. Those disappointments are inevitable; no team is perfect, unless it's *your* team. All manner of sins become forgivable, and you say, “Next time.”

You live through the low points for the lasting memories of the truly great moments: the run, the touchdown, the title, the dynasty. When Major League Baseball says, “I live for this,” you know what they mean, regardless of the sport.

My own love affair is with the Boston Red Sox. I know what happened: we lost, we couldn't get it together this time. But to a worthy adversary, I can't complain too much. I don't feel robbed of anything *today*; after Game 3, I admit I sat stunned, staring at the television. There's a picture of Kevin Millar sitting alone in the dugout, staring at the field, after the game. I felt like I was there with him in a sense, trying to understand where it all went wrong. The three-run homer that wasn't, the missed opportunity with the bases

loaded. But this will only be a drop in the bucket, the low amidst the great moments and the memories.

In 2003, my heart, and on occasion, my stomach, truly became attached to the Red Sox. It was then that I first understood the power of the team, and in turn, the Curse (of the Bambino). We lost then too. Aaron *@\$\$#!& Boone, a name to join the likes of Bucky (same middle name as Boone) Dent and Bill Buckner, in ending an eternal dream. I felt sick, physically ill, at the crack of Boone's bat. And it was over.

Yet, before and since, there have been fantastic moments, crystallizing events, the ones that keep you coming back. Pedro Martinez showing Don Zimmer what was what. The cheers of “Cowboy Up,” and the purposefully bald “cowboys” that took the field.* The heart-stopping moment when Johnny Damon and Damian Jackson collided in the outfield. Big Papi in extra innings (and I don't like overtime). Being down 0-3 to the Yankees, and coming back. Schilling's bloody sock. Foulke's underhand toss to Mientkiewicz. Varitek's mitt in A-Rod's face. Clement being knocked off his feet by a line-drive. A return to the playoffs. These are my memories, my highs and lows. The moments I will carry with me.

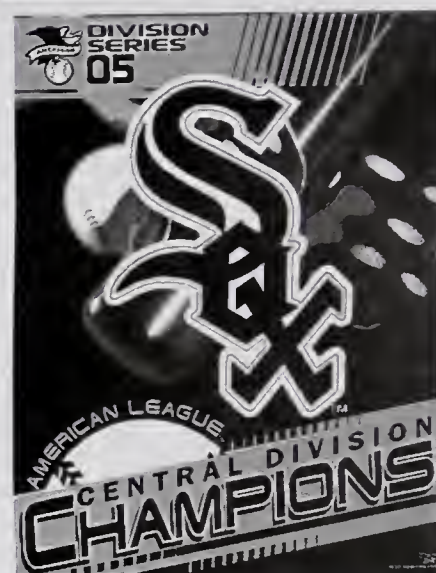
And yet, it even goes beyond the events, the action. You take

something away with you, every time you watch *your* team.

*A similar rash of head-shaving hit Merlino at the same time. Those that lived there and knew Mike Dougherty, might recall he told his “Merlinville” residents that they could shave his head *if* Boston won the ALDS. They did, and they did.

Fantasy Football Update: Heading into Week five, I managed to make the jump to sixth, but it's a tight match up. We'll see how I come out of it.

“Every day is a new opportunity. You can build on yesterday's success or put its failures behind and start over again. That's the way life is, with a new game every day, and that's the way baseball is.”
~Bob Feller



A Love for the Unloved

By Allison Segarra, *Sports Editor*

I have been a Chicago White Sox fan for fourteen years. They were my first Major League Baseball experience at the age of seven. I crossed Thirty-Fifth clutching my father's hand, staring up at Comiskey in all of its grandeur. He stopped to get our tickets out of his fanny pack (hey, it was 1991) and I refused to let go of his hand. I stood frozen, dumbfounded by the lights and the chaotic mass of screaming fans entering the park. It was at that moment I fell in love with the most unappreciated team in baseball, the Go-Go White Sox.

I have been waiting for the postseason Sox to appear since that day, and fans of every generation have been waiting since 1917 for the World Series. And that is not the only reason why life as a Sox fan isn't fair. We are neglected in more ways than one. First of all, we are the second team in the second city. Let's be honest, it is impossible to get Cubs tickets, yet all season I paid thirty bucks to sit in the lower deck at Comiskey (I refuse to call it the CELL). We hold the best record in baseball all season, and yet no one wants to go watch our games? This makes absolutely no sense to me. Which brings me to my next point: we get a bad rap for “selling out” to U.S. Cellular (no pun intended).

It isn't a historical marker like Wrigley, we know. But guess what? There are fireworks. All the time. Every time we hit a homer. And that is cool. You can not argue with that. Here is my biggest issue: are we not special because we don't have a curse? Big fricken' deal. We don't blame our misfortunes on a goat or a bad trade. We just accept them and move on. If we really wanted to we could blame our lack of a postseason success on the Black Sox Scandal of 1919. But we don't. Because we are better than that.

Now that it is finally our turn again (we haven't seen this kind of action in the postseason since 1959) here is what I WILL not put up with: BANDWAGONERS! If you weren't part of our humble south side society before, please do not think that you can join us now! We have all waited quietly and patiently. Even now we aren't doing any bragging. We know that our team worked damn hard this season and we deserve this. Even my Bo Sox crazed best friend can admit that.

I will not say that the White Sox are going to make it all the way, because I am too superstitious for that. All I am going to say is “Go-Go White Sox and whoever plays the Cubs!”

Omega Horoscopes

October 13, 2005

1st Annual Indiana Poetry Festival

- What? *A day dedicated to reading and appreciating poetry.*
- Who? *U.S. Poet Laureate Ted Kooser, SJC alumnus Norbert Krampf, and a bevy of other poets.*
- When? *11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Oct. 16.*
- Where? *Indianapolis Art Center and ARTSPEAK, 820 E. 67 St., Indianapolis, IN.*
- Cost? *Suggested donations: \$8 for adults, \$5 for students, and free for ages 17 and younger.*
 - For more information, visit www.indianapoetryfestival.org.

Heartland Film Festival

- What? *Indiana's answer to Cannes.*
- Who? *Patricia Heaton, Sean Astin, Bill Paxton, and Dakota Fanning among many other celebrities.*
- When? *Oct. 13, through Oct. 21.*
- Where? *IMAX, AMC Castleton Arts, Indiana History Center, and Conseco Fieldhouse in Indianapolis (among others).*
- Cost? *\$7 for single general admission and \$50 for a Festival 10-Pack.*
 - For more information, check out www.heartlandfilmfestival.org.

Fountain Stone Theaters

Movies for Sept 16 - 22
(219) 866-2222

www.fountainstonetheaters.com

- The Fog
Fri: 5:10, 7:30, 9:20 (PG-13)
Sat: 3:20, 5:10, 7:30, 9:20
Sun: 3:20, 5:10, 7:30
Mon-Th: 5:10, 7:30
- Elizabethtown
Fri: 4:50, 7:20 (PG-13)
Sat: 2:30, 4:50, 7:20
Sun: 2:30, 4:50, 7:20
Mon-Th: 4:50, 7:20
- In Her Shoes
Fri: 5:20, 7:40 (PG-13)
Sat: 3:00, 5:20, 7:40
Sun: 3:00, 5:20, 7:40
Mon-Th: 5:20, 7:40
- Tim Burton's Corpse Bride
Fri: 5:30 (PG)
Sat: 3:30, 5:30
Sun: 3:30, 5:30
Mon-Th: 5:30
- Into the Blue
Fri: 7:10, 9:15 (PG-13)
Sat: 7:10, 9:15
Sun: 7:10
Mon-Th: 7:10
- Wallace & Gromit: The Curse of the Were-Rabbit
Fri: 5:00, 7:00, 9:00 (G)
Sat: 3:10, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00
Sun: 3:10, 5:00, 7:00
Mon-Th: 5:00, 7:00



Libra (Sept. 22- Oct. 22)
If you do not get an A, it is not the end of the world. It is time to enjoy life. Do not let your emotions get the best of you, jealousy especially. You have been blessed with many talents, so put them to use. Stop arguing with your roommate: patience is the key to resolving this feud.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
Do not be such a scaredy-cat; stand up for yourself. Laugh until you cry or cannot feel your tummy; this is not the time to life seriously. Stop taking care of others and worry about your own needs. Are you getting enough vitamin C? Get some Zs, too—a cold is coming your way.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 20)
Stick to your guns when making ethical decisions. Think of the outcomes of others before you choose your options. Work now and the pay off will be at your fingertips. Be a good friend and lend an ear and possibly a shoulder to cry on.

Capricorn (Dec. 21-Jan. 19)

Stop feeling sorry for yourself, and play by the rules. Classes are demanding right now—do not doubt yourself. You have the knowledge to excel. This is not high school anymore, so stop acting like it is and grow up. It is time to treat yourself to something you have had your eye on; it's OK, splurge! You have the extra cash.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 17)
The sun may not be shining on you right now, but there is still happiness surrounding you. Things are not always as planned; roll with the punches. Spend quality time with the ones you love. Do you need a box of tissues? Stop being such a crybaby and act your age.

Pisces (Feb. 18-March 20)
When setbacks occur find a new course to travel. If you do not know what is going on, ask questions. Is your head getting too big? Arrogance is not attractive, so come back down to earth. The petty arguments will cease if you sit down and talk about the situation troubling you.

Aries (March 21-April 19)
Knock that chip off of your

shoulder—being egocentric is not a positive characteristic.
Taurus (April 20-May 19)
It is time to take a breather and focus on your priorities. No one can read your mind, so say what you want. Your intuition has the answers to your problems, so stop asking for everyone's advice. When is the last time you were off campus? Do something out of the ordinary and have some fun.

Gemini (May 20-June 20)
Do something for the community, and stay aware of the world around you. Stop borrowing money from your roomie for things that you do not need. Go to the rec. center and get rid of that frustration that has been building up. Endorphins make you happy! Those around you have been in your shoes, so listen to their advice.

Cancer (June 21-July 21)
It is time for a change; your routine is getting old and boring. Stop being a hermit and get out of your room. Social gatherings are all around you, social butterfly. Remember to think before you make any decisions you may regret later. Enjoy the



kindness of strangers; they may become a friend one day soon.

Leo (July 22-Aug. 22)
Your positive attitude has the power to lift those around you. Do not take it for granted. Do not let the past influence you; live today as it comes your way. A new love interest is right beneath your nose. Watch your calorie intake; when is the last time you ate something green? Stand your ground, for now is the time to have the final word.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 21)
Others are looking up to you now—stand up to your leadership abilities. Pay close attention to your watch as time is passing you by. You made promises, but you are not committing to them. The dust bunnies are piling up in your room; it is time to plug in a vacuum.

This week's stars have been read by your Auntie Cleo.



Featured SJC Artist Elizabeth Wissel



The King's Tavern
Elizabeth Wissel, black and white photograph

Gangbé Brass Band

- What? *A 10-piece brass band from Benin, West Africa.*
- When? *Sunday, October 16, at 7:30 p.m. Doors open at 7:00 p.m.*
- Where? *Duncan Hall, 619 Ferry St., Lafayette, IN 47920.*
- Cost? *\$12 in advance, and \$14 on the day of the show.*
- For more information, go to www.friends-of-bob.org.

Drew Carey and the Improv All-Stars

- What? *Mimi from The Drew Carey Show along with a bevy of others display their improv skills.*
- When? *Sat., Nov. 12, at 7 and 10:30 p.m.*
- Where? *Star Plaza, 8001 Delaware Place, Merrillville, IN.*
- Cost? *\$41 per person.*
- For more information, go to www.starplazatheatre.com.

Wanna Rock and Roll All Night? And Party Every Day?
(Of course you do. You're at SJC!)

